

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to now even more-particularly claim the plate-shaped rib that forms the abutment portion. As now more-particularly claimed, the plate-shaped rib continuously extends *from* the first side wall *to* the second side wall of the key. Thus, the rib not only extends from the side walls, but now even more-particularly, extends continuously from one side wall of the key to the other side wall of the key. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature of Applicant's invention can be seen at least in the embodiment of the invention as illustrated in Fig. 5C.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Stiles discloses an "abutment portion" that is comprised of the partitions which form the two slots parallel to the side walls. Applicant respectfully submits that even if these partitions can be considered to be an abutment portion, neither of these partitions, either alone or in combination, extend continuously *from* the first side wall *to* the second side wall of the key. As can be clearly seen in at least Figures 4 and 5, as cited by the Examiner, the bushing 33 is located between the partitions. In fact, the purpose of the partitions is to provide support on opposing sides of the bushing that is placed between them. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the partitions cannot disclose Applicant's now even more-particularly claimed abutment portion that extends continuously from the first side wall of the key to the second side wall of the key and that, therefore, amended claim 8 is allowable over Stiles for at least this reason.

Further in the Office Action, the Examiner argues that the ribs that form the partitions include a lower surface that has a largest surface area of the rib. Applicant respectfully does not understand this argument. If, as the Examiner further argues with respect to this feature, the ribs have a uniform thickness in the "vertical direction", how does this uniform thickness in the vertical direction relate to Applicant's claimed invention where the lower surface of the plate-shaped rib includes the largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib? It seems to Applicant that if the rib extends in the vertical direction, the largest surface area

of the rib would be in this vertically-extending portion and not at the lower surface of the rib, as claimed by Applicant. Applicant respectfully submits that, as discussed above, amended claim 8 is allowable over Stiles even without further distinguishing over Stiles with respect to this feature, however, if the Examiner disagrees with Applicant, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner further discuss this argument in the next communication so that Applicant may better understand the argument.

Further, Applicant again respectfully submits that there is no disclosure in Stiles that keyed 9 discloses Applicant's claimed "stoppers". In Applicant's claimed invention, the stoppers are arranged under the keys for **abutment** of the side walls and the abutment portion. In Stiles, there is no disclosure that keyed 9 abuts any structure. All that is disclosed is that keyed 9 includes a guide pin 23 that is received in guide bushings 22 and 33. The guide pins and bushings are merely used to hold the key properly aligned on the keybed. In fact, in Stiles, as disclosed at col. 3, lines 16-21, the keys' side walls 19 have ramped edges as shown at 24 in Figures 2 and 3, such that the keys 12 may only be depressed to an extent wherein the upper parts of the side walls of the adjacent keys are exposed. Thus, Stiles provides no disclosure for keyed 9 abutting any structure of the keys. It merely includes a guide pin that is received in a guide bushing.

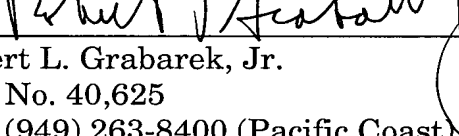
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 8-10 being allowable. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned

As stated above, this paper should be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 056272.52748US).

Respectfully submitted,

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